



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/628,978

07/28/2003

Brad Haeberle

2003 P 11251 US

7134

7590

01/30/2006

Elsa Keller, Legal Assistant
Intellectual Property Department
SIEMENS CORPORATION
186 Wood Avenue South
Iselin, NJ 08830

EXAMINER

WOO, ISAAC M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2166

DATE MAILED: 01/30/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/628,978

Applicant(s)

HAEBERLE ET AL.

Examiner

Isaac M. Woo

Art Unit

2166

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 January 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☒ Other: See Continuation Sheet.

Continuation of Attachment(s) 6). Other: examiner's initial and input of application number for related applications .

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is response to the application filed, on July 28, 2003. Claims 1-8 are presented for examination.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 1-3, 5 and 7 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 1 recites the limitation "said information" in line 5 and in line 8. Claim 7 recites the limitation "said information" in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Because there are two "information" recited previously, which are, first, "information about a service activity for equipment located at a plurality building sites" in lines 1-2, and second, "information about a plurality pieces of equipment located at distributed building sites" in line 3-4. Thus, it is not clear which "said information" refers to.

As per claim 1, line 2, "a plurality building sites", should it be, -- a plurality of building sites --?. Lines 3-4, "a plurality pieces of equipment", should it be, -- a plurality of pieces of equipment --?. Lines 5-6, "the user" does not have clear antecedent basis in the claim, should it be, -- a user --?. Line 7, "said request", should it be, --said user request --?. After line 7, -- and --, is required.

As per claim 2, line 2, after "said information" needs, -- about the piece of equipment--.

As per claim 3, lines 2-3, recites "about service activity for a piece of equipment, and displaying said information", should it be -- about a service activity for a piece of equipment, and displaying said information about the service activity for the piece of equipment --?.

As per claim 5, lines 2-3, recites "about the history for a piece of equipment, and displaying said information", should it be -- about a service history for a piece of equipment, and displaying said information about the service activity for the piece of equipment --?.

Appropriate correction is required.

Specification

3. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

Abstract in line 1, recites, "A method and system is ***disclosed***" should be avoided. Appropriate correction is required.

Applicant is reminded to provide the serial numbers and the status of the co-pending applications recited in specification page 1.

Drawings

4. The drawings are objected to because on figure 9, the numbers do not include descriptions for the numbers. Thus, the numbers on figure 9 with descriptions are required. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Koveos (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0178100).

With respect to claim 1, Koveos teaches, displaying information about a service activity (i.e., currently leased for Epson Stylus Colour 600 Printer, page 3, section 0052) for equipment (i.e., Epson Stylus Colour 600 Printer in fig. 4, page 3 section 0052) located at a plurality of building sites (i.e., 37, location in fig. 4, building location is 227 Elizabeth Street in the state of NSW, page 3, section 0052, page 1, section 0016):

providing a web portal (website 3 in fig. 1, page 2, section 0048) comprising a database (database 2 in fig. 1, page 2, section 0048), and storing information about a plurality of pieces of equipment (page 2, section 0048, 0050) located at distributed building sites in the database (i.e., a piece of equipment location is searched from database, page 2, sections 0049-0050, page 1, section 0016);

receiving a user request from one or more clients(computer 4 in fig. 1, page 2, section 0048) (i.e., asset inquiry 11 by user in fig. 3, page 2, section 0051) to display the information (i.e., results of searching, fig. 4, page 3, section 0052, examiner interprets that "said information" refers to "information about a plurality of pieces of equipment") which the user is authorized to view (page 1, section 0007, page 2, section 0022, viewing by permitted accounts);

determining which information is implicated by the request (i.e., search, page 2, section 0051, examiner interprets that "said request" refers to "a user request");

displaying the information on a client display (i.e., showing results of searching information for the equipment in fig. 4, page 3, section 0052).

With respect to claim 2, Koveos teaches receiving a client request to display information about a piece of equipment (fig. 3, page 2, section 0051), and displaying the information on the client display (fig. 4, page 3, section 0052).

With respect to claim 3, Koveos teaches receiving a client request to display information about service activity (fig. 5, page 3, section 0053) for a piece of equipment, and displaying the information on the client display (fig. 5, page 3, section 0053).

With respect to claim 4, Koveos teaches receiving a client request to display information about a service contract (fig. 5, page 3, section 0053-0054, page 1, section

0010) relevant to a piece of equipment, and displaying the information on the client display (fig. 5, page 3, section 0053).

With respect to claim 5, Koveos teaches receiving a client request to display information about a service history (fig. 5, page 3, section 0053-0054) for a piece of equipment, and displaying the information on the client display (fig. 5, page 3, section 0053, page 1, section 0009).

With respect to claim 6, Koveos teaches receiving a client request to display information about scheduled services (fig. 5, page 3, section 0053-0054) for a piece of equipment, and displaying the information on the client display (fig. 5, page 3, section 0053).

With respect to claim 7, Koveos teaches information about the building site where the equipment is located (i.e., 37, location in fig. 4), and information about the equipment's location in the building site (i.e., 52, room in fig. 5, page 3, section 0053, page 1, section 0018).

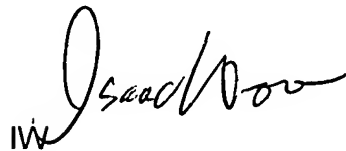
With respect to claim 8, Koveos teaches receiving a client request for information about a service order (fig. 5, page 3, section 0053) for a piece of equipment, and displaying the information on the client display (fig. 5, page 3, section 0053).

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Isaac M. Woo whose telephone number is (571) 272-4043. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hosain T. Alam can be reached on (571) 272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Isaac Woo". The signature is stylized with a large initial "I" and a long, sweeping underline.

January 22, 2006

**METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR OBTAINING SERVICE RELATED
INFORMATION ABOUT EQUIPMENT LOCATED AT A PLURALITY OF SITES**

This application claims the benefit of United States Provisional Patent Application
Serial No. 60/398,956 titled "Customer Web Portal" which is incorporated by reference *Iw 1/19/06*
herein, and also claims the benefit of United States Provisional Patent Application Serial
No. 60/441,838 titled System and Method for Developing and Processing Building *Iw 1/19/06*
System Control Solutions, which is also incorporated by reference herein.

RELATED APPLICATIONS

The following patent applications cover subject matter related to the subject
matter of the present invention: "Method and System for Obtaining Service Contract
Information" U.S. Patent Application No. *10/629,226*; "Method and System for Obtaining *Iw*
Service Information about one or more Building Sites" U.S. Patent Application No. *10/628,999 Iw*
; "Method and System for Obtaining Information about a Building Site"; U.S. Patent
Application No. *10/629,229*; "Method and System for Obtaining Operational Data and Service *Iw 1/19/06*
Information for a Building Site" U.S. Patent Application No. *10/628,996 Iw 1/19/06*

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention allows users online access to service information for their
one or more building sites, enabling them to place online service requests, access work
orders, service histories and service contract details.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Most commercial properties include a number of building systems that monitor
and regulate various functions of the building for the comfort and well-being of the
tenants. These building systems include security systems, fire control systems, and
heating and ventilation (HVAC) systems. HVAC systems are used to regulate the

over the network is a TCP/IP layer. This structure supports communication between a control application program executing on the system controller and an application program executing on the local controller. However, the computer network does not provide remote building system engineers with access to the application programs.

In order to monitor a building system, a system controller typically receives status data from local controllers periodically or as conditions change. These data may be analyzed by the system controller to determine whether commands for local controllers should be generated and then discarded or stored after being analyzed. These stored data may be characterized as historical data for the building system. These historical data may be very useful for determining response characteristics of a building system or for other system modeling uses. However, these historical data are typically stored at the building site. Consequently, these data are inaccessible to building system engineers unless a copy of these data are generated and migrated to another location for analysis and modeling purposes. Additionally, previously known systems require the system controller to store the operational data in a database. Thus, the system controller absorbs an administrative overhead for managing the storage of operational data in a local database. This administrative overhead may include programming logic to convert data values to a common format or to manipulate the application programming interface (API) of a database.

In an effort to reduce this administrative overhead, systems have been developed that segregate the informational aspects of a building control system from the control aspects. For example, U.S. Patent No. 6,141,595 discloses a system that includes an information layer and a control layer that interface with a group of databases. The

EW
4/19/06